

#2/a

Docket: 1695 CIP CON III

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of: Dominick L. Mastri, et al
Con of Serial No.: 09/497,647 Examiner: Unknown
Group Art Unit: Unknown Filed: Concurrently Herewith
For: SURGICAL STAPLER
Asst. Commissioner of Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Sir:

Prior to examining the present application, please enter the following
Preliminary Amendment:

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Amend the specification by inserting before the first line the sentence:

"This is a continuation of U.S. Application Serial No. 09/497,647 filed on

February 3, 2000, now abandoned, which is a continuation of U.S.
Application Serial No. 09/119,543, now U.S. Patent No. 6,032,849, which

IN THE CLAIMS

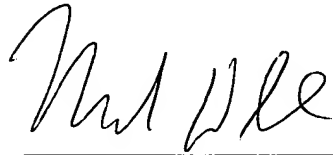
Please cancel claims 2-19 without prejudice.

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REMARKS

By the present Amendment, claims 2-19 have been cancelled. Claim 1 remains in the application.

Respectfully Submitted,



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Dated: 7/26/06

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